(a) the number of disputes came before Telephone Regulatory Authority of India since its inception in 1997;

(b) what is the jurisdiction of TRAI;

(c) the number of cases solved, year-wise; and

(d) the number of cases pending for more than one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of disputes before Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), year-wise, since its inception in 1997 and until the establishment of Telecom Disputes Settlement and appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) are as under:-

1997	—	18 cases
1998	—	16 cases
1999	—	5 cases

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, prior to its amendment by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000, had provided for the recommendatory, regulatory, and the adjudicatory functions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The adjudicatory role of TRAI was transferred to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) constituted under the amended Act.

(c) and (d) The number of cases resolved by TRAI, year-wise, till the inception of TDSAT are as under:—

1997	—	10 cases
1998	—	9 cases
1999	—	4 cases

Consequent on transfer of adjudicatory functions of TRAI to TDSAT, 16 cases pending before TRAI were transferred to TDSAT for adjudication. All the cases so transferred have since been disposed off by TDSAT. Further, no case filed before TDSAT since its inception is pending for more than one year.

Anthrax Letters Complaints

452. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anthrax letters complaints received upto date;

(b) the number of anthrax letters and the number of suspected anthrax letters received so far before and after the Afghan war; and

(c) the measures taken up to identify suspected letters before their distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Nil.

(b) (i) Number of Anthrax letters received — Nil

(ii) Number of suspicious Anthrax letters received — 76

(c) Guidelines have been issued to all the Postal Circles regarding handling of suspected articles containing anthrax. Copies of Universal Postal Union and United States Postal Inspection Service Manuals which provide tips to identify suspected articles and preventive measures have been circulated to all concerned.

Short Distance Mobile Telephone Services

453. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has decided to accept the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendations allowing basic telecom operators to offer short-distance mobile telephone services based on Wireless in Local Loop (WILL) technology; and

(b) if so, to what extent the current cellular telephone rates would be cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) TRAI's recommendation has been accepted for allowing the usage of hand-held telephone sets to subscribers of Basic Telephone Service within the local areas typically Tehsils on Wireless Access Systems.

(b) Domain of above permission for Basic Teledphone Service, is clearly different from that of the GSM based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. No airtime charges are levied as tariff on subscribers utilizing the facility in (a) above.

Caller Identification Facilities

454. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: